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DDI- 5245-83/1

20 JUL
1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : DoD Authorization Bill and Chemical
Weapons Program []

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REFERENCES : A. Letter for The President from
Senator Mack Mattingly, dated
7 July 1983, Subject: Chemical
Weapons Program
B. Memorandum for The Honorable
Caspar W. Weinberger from
William P. Clark, dated 19 July 1983,
Subject: DoD Authorization Bill and
Chemical Weapons Program

1. Action. I recommend that you advise Secretary Weinberger that no additional intelligence information on Soviet chemical and biological activities can be released without seriously jeopardizing sources and methods. []

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2. Background. Senator Mattingly has proposed release of information concerning the Soviet research, development and testing, and use of chemical weapons following either sanitization or declassification. We already have made extensive release of not only Intelligence Community judgment, but all relevant raw data possible []

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[] There is no additional classified data that can be further sanitized without seriously jeopardizing the sources we now are using []

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or the scope of our knowledge that has led to the repeated conclusion already expressed publicly of Soviet use and continuing research on lethal chemical/biological weapons. []

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Specifically, the attached Department of State Special Reports Nos. 98 (March 1982) and 104 (November 1982) on "Chemical Warfare in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan" are, in fact, the declassified Special National Intelligence Estimates entitled "Use of Toxins and Other Lethal Chemicals in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan" of February 1982 and March 1983. Virtually

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every possible detail that could be extracted and sanitized was included in the State reports. More recently, an interagency effort to declassify our data and judgments concerning the Soviet and Warsaw Pact chemical weapons R&D programs resulted in material being given to Congress in the form of yet another unclassified paper, also attached for your information. All of these materials have often been featured in public hearings in both Houses, the most recently being 24 February 1983 before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

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We have followed the controversy in the press which no doubt relates in part to Senator Mattingly's concern that all of the public has not been fully persuaded by the US charges of Soviet complicity in continued research and use of chemical weapons. But we have also noted that the issues are not really joined in disagreement over the fundamental public charge that lethal chemicals have been used, but rather over some still imponderable scientific questions which are being debated by scientists who do not have access to the full data base.

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Let me also assure you that our response to the Department of State's requests for continuing access to unclassified sample data continues. For example, in usually less than two working days our analysts and those at DIA and ACSI/DOA release results after receipt from the laboratories. And State/PM routinely requests and is given "updates" of evidence of continued use or cessation of use of chemical agents in the form of special memoranda from the DCI Working Group on Chemical/Toxin Use.

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In summary, we are making a concerted effort to supply everything possible to keep the public informed without jeopardizing sources and methods. I do not believe we should go further.

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Attachments:
As Stated

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DDI/OSWR [] (20 July 1983)

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